

Legal Questions

A Legal Committee, on which Canada served, was set up at the Conference to consider the many amendments to the Constitution, rules of procedure and various directives consequent upon the adoption of a system of biennial rather than annual conferences. Canada was elected to the Legal Committee for the 1954 conference.

Conclusion

There are various considerations in Canada's participation in UNESCO. One point of view is that it is an Organization to which we give, but from which we also receive. This has not always been recognized in Canada but Canadian scientists, educators, social scientists and others are beginning to realize that they can draw positive advantage from some of UNESCO's projects. UNESCO can also be regarded as another channel for helping the less-developed countries of the world.

In the final analysis, the crisis of the recent Conference arose from the clash of concepts over the proper purposes and potentialities of the Organization as seen by delegates of the less developed countries on the one hand and the major contributing nations on the other. Debate on this central issue which precipitated Dr. Bodet's resignation generated a degree of bitterness on the part of some delegations. They expressed the view that at the end of the Second World War the great powers had stimulated the hopes of the whole world concerning the peaceful and constructive role of UNESCO; but now these same powers were showing greater concern with other matters, particularly defence, and were inclined to neglect the ideals represented by UNESCO. While these views may seem to some to have been based on a misunderstanding of what UNESCO can do in the present world and while the emotions aroused in the debate may have seemed excessive, these symptoms of disillusionment are phenomena which we in Canada should not ignore or belittle.